

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Supplanting normal network programming in prime time with an electronic political screed presents a slanderous bias that violates election practices and constitutes a contribution to a political campaign. This weakens our democracy and violates the public trust.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.